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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

DATE _____

SPONSOR: Picraux TYPED: 02/11/03 HB 257

SHORT _____

TITLE: Alcohol Related Domestic Abuse Programs SB _____

ANALYST: Martinez

REVENUE

Estimated Revenue		Subsequent Years Impact	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY03	FY04			
	(\$300.0)	Indeterminate	Recurring	Local DWI Grant Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Revenue Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Responses Received From

Administrative Office of the Courts
 Department of Finance and Administration
 Department of Health
 New Mexico Health Policy Commission

SUMMARY

House Bill 257 amends the DWI Grant Program Act and allows funds to be used for programs to reduce or prevent the incidence of domestic abuse related to alcohol abuse. This legislation provides a new section whereby the Local DWI Grant Fund can be used for programs, services or activities to prevent or reduce the incidence of domestic abuse related to alcoholism or alcohol abuse. This legislation would continue to fund existing community based programs, service or facilities for prevention and treatment of domestic abuse related to alcoholism or alcohol abuse.

Significant Issues

According to the Department of Health and the Health Policy Commission, DWI continues to be a major problem in the state of New Mexico. The Local DWI Grant Program Fund was established to make grants available to municipalities or counties for innovative programs to prevent or reduce the incidence of DWI, alcoholism and alcohol abuse.

Nationally, nearly half of female victims of intimate partner violence (domestic violence) reported that the offender was drinking or using illegal drugs at the time of the crime. This same

pattern was found in a national survey of prison inmates with 55% of these offenders drinking or using drugs at the time of the offense.

The Department of Health states that while Domestic violence is a serious issue in New Mexico, HB 257 could possibly send a wrong message to women who are victims of non-alcohol related domestic violence. In addition, addressing the issue of alcohol-related domestic violence using DWI Grant Program Funding may dilute the Local DWI Grant Program Fund for other community-based programs that address DWI issues.

The DFA notes that expanding the funding for domestic violence prevention and treatment may diminish the funds available for DWI.

According to the Administrative Office of the Courts, additional programs or services give judges sentencing options in dealing with domestic violence or DWI cases. National research and statistics into the nature of domestic violence show that early intervention is important in dealing with domestic violence.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The Local DWI Grant Fund is comprised of \$2.8 million of liquor excise tax revenues. This legislation proposes that \$300.0 of this amount be distributed to counties reclassified in 2002 as class A counties with a population more than ninety thousand, but less than one hundred thousand in the 1990 census. This would affect Sandoval and Santa Fe Counties.

MM/sb/njw